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THE BEST SUPERHERO COMIC BOOK IN THE UNIVERSE!

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image COMICS PRESENTS

INVINCIBLE

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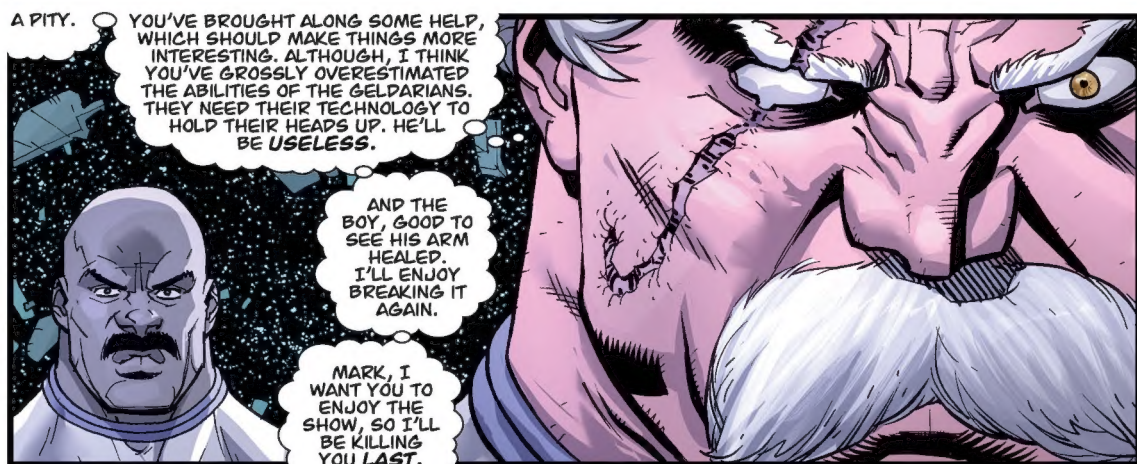
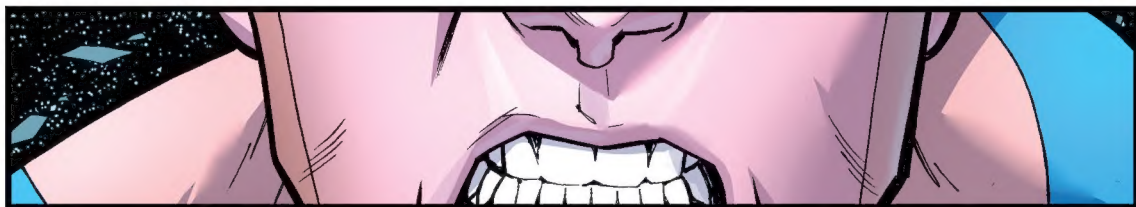
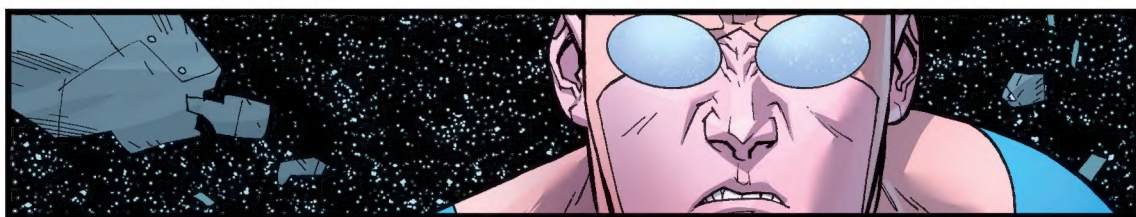


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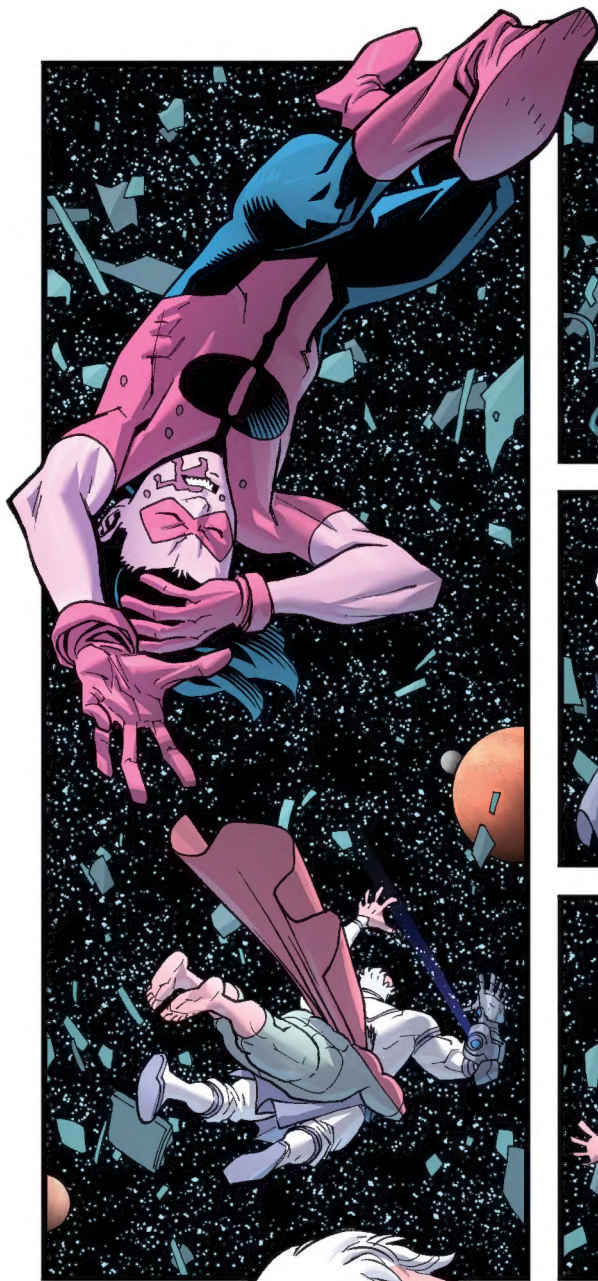
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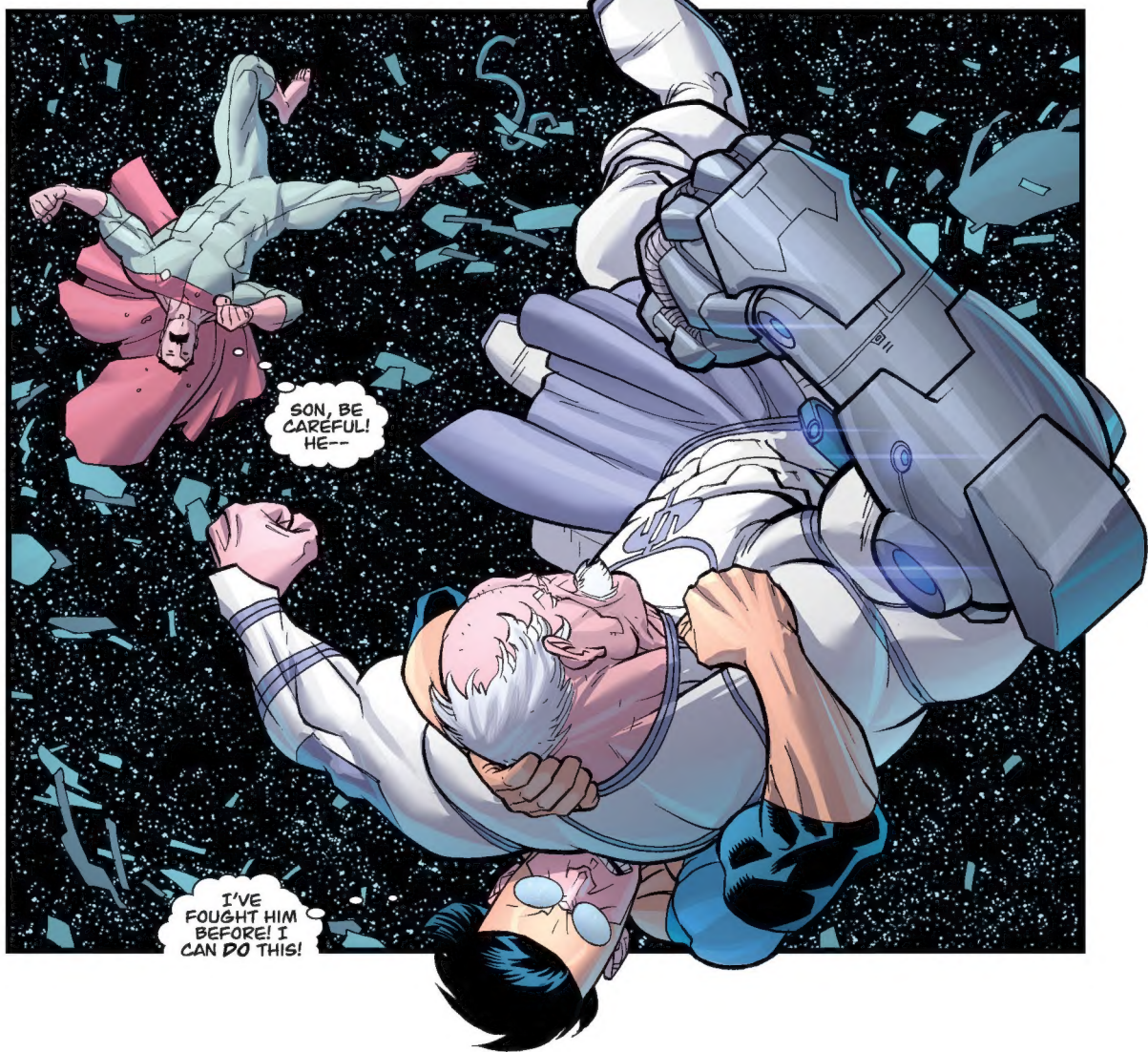
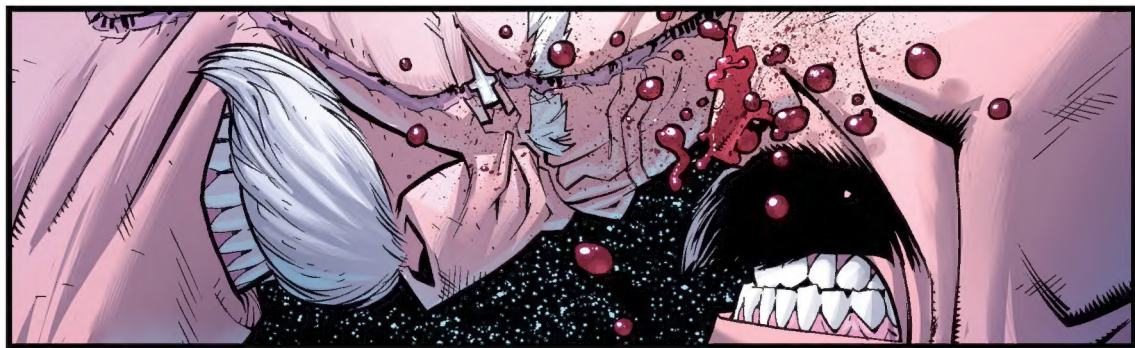
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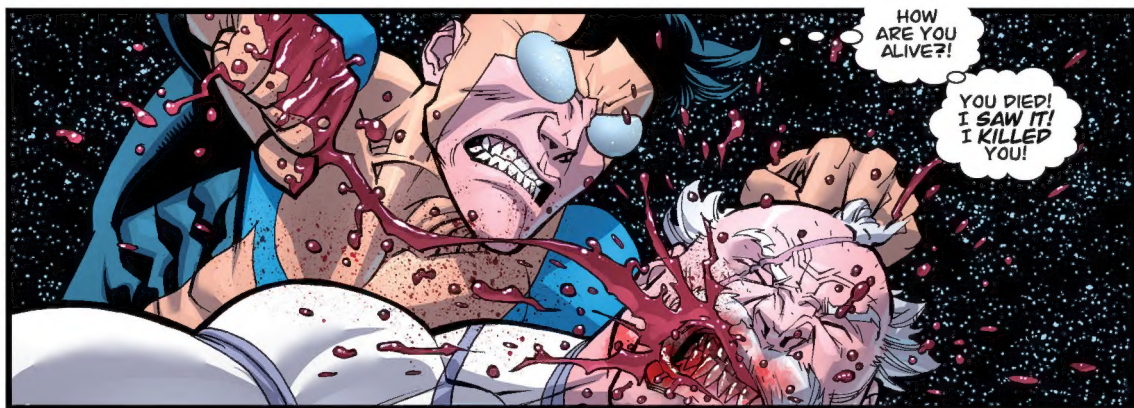
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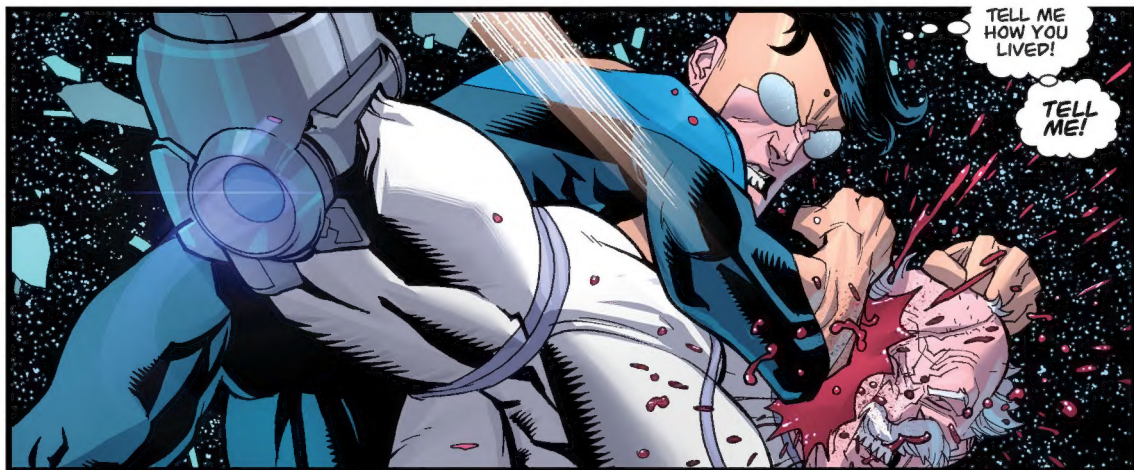






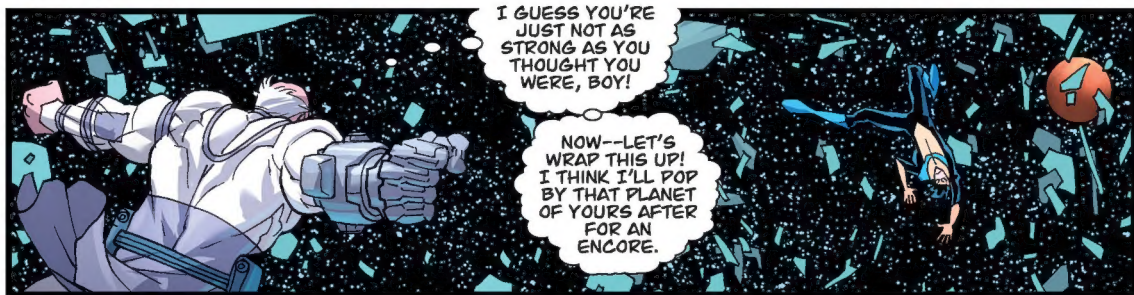
HOW
ARE YOU
ALIVE?!

YOU DIED!
I SAW IT!
I KILLED
YOU!



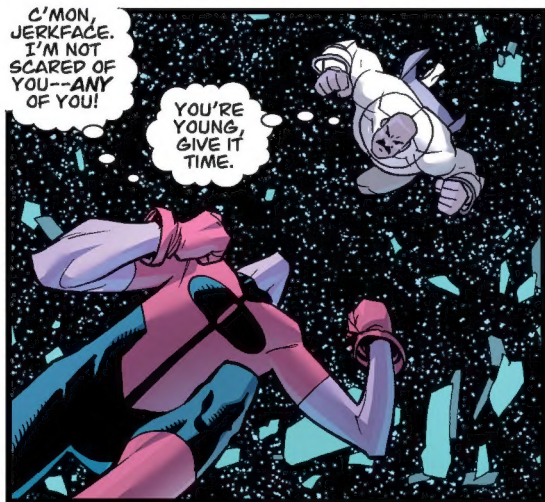
TELL ME
HOW YOU
LIVED!

TELL
ME!



I GUESS YOU'RE
JUST NOT AS
STRONG AS YOU
THOUGHT YOU
WERE, BOY!

NOW--LET'S
WRAP THIS UP!
I THINK I'LL POP
BY THAT PLANET
OF YOURS AFTER
FOR AN
ENCORE.



C'MON,
JERKFACE.
I'M NOT
SCARED OF
YOU--ANY
OF YOU!

YOU'RE
YOUNG,
GIVE IT
TIME.



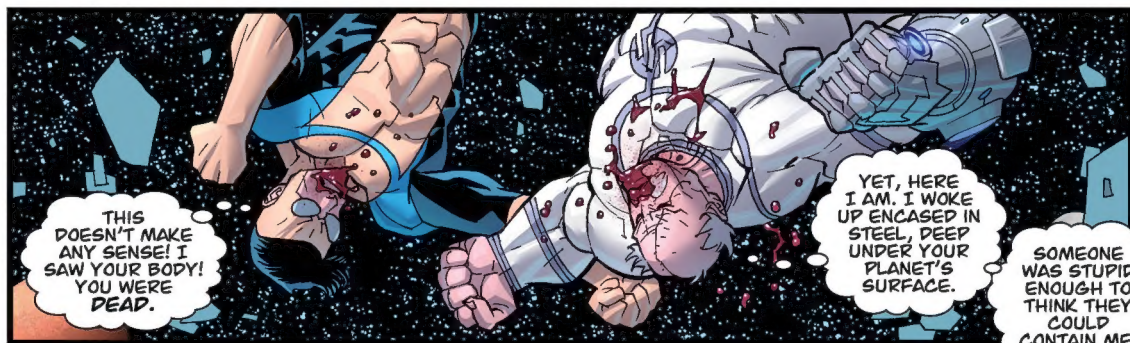
YOU CAN'T HOPE TO
STAND AGAINST OUR
EMPIRE IF THESE
ARE THE FINEST
SOLDIERS YOU
CAN FIND.

PATHETIC!



YOU
OKAY?

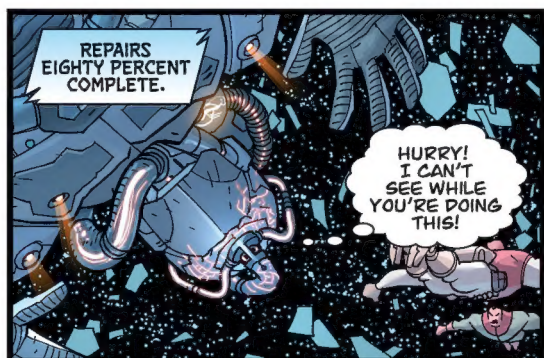
YEAH, I'M
FINE. I THINK
MY HELMET
CAN REPAIR
ITSELF.



THIS
DOESN'T MAKE
ANY SENSE! I
SAW YOUR BODY!
YOU WERE
DEAD.

YET, HERE
I AM. I WOKE
UP ENCASED IN
STEEL, DEEP
UNDER YOUR
PLANET'S
SURFACE.

SOMEONE
WAS STUPID
ENOUGH TO
THINK THEY
COULD
CONTAIN ME.

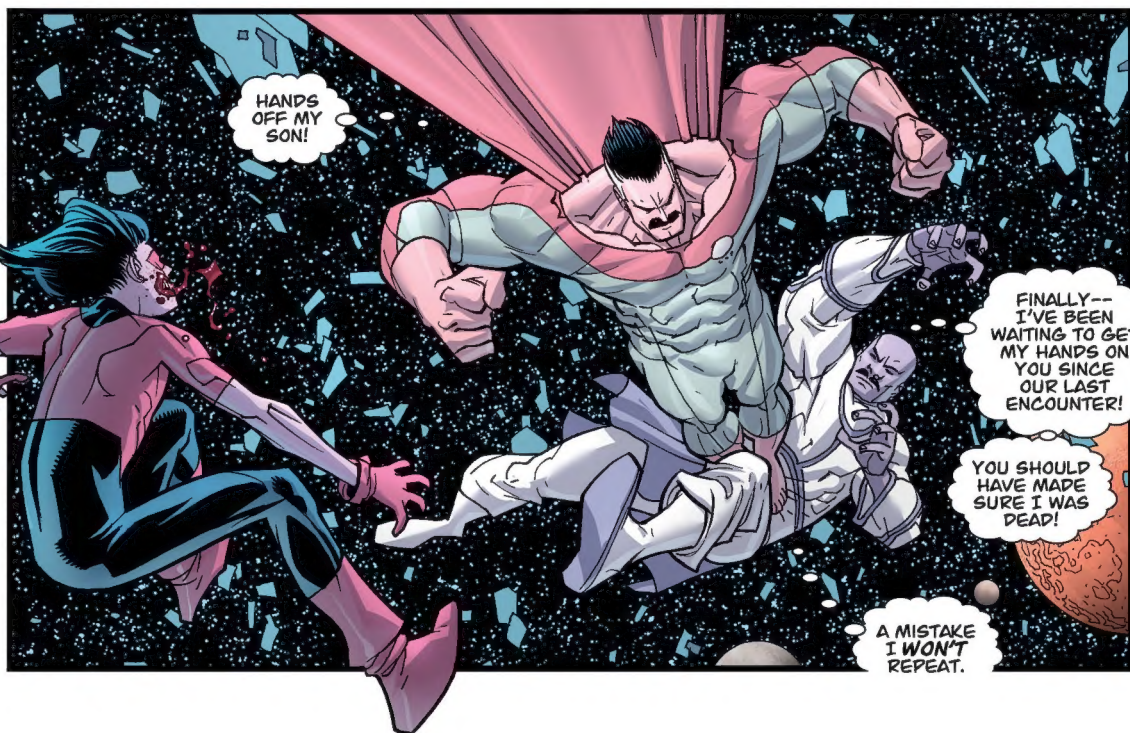


REPAIRS
EIGHTY PERCENT
COMPLETE.

HURRY!
I CAN'T
SEE WHILE
YOU'RE DOING
THIS!



OH, YOU
THINK YOU
CAN--

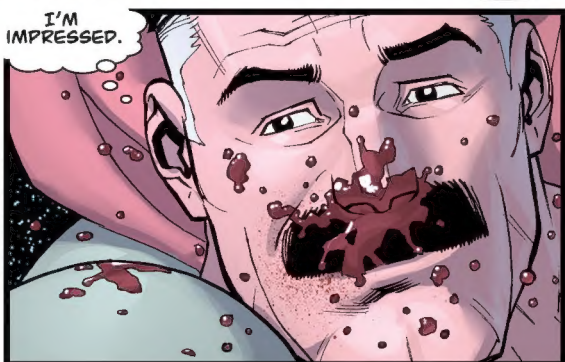
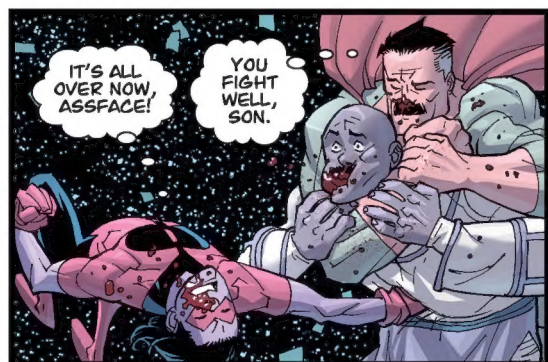
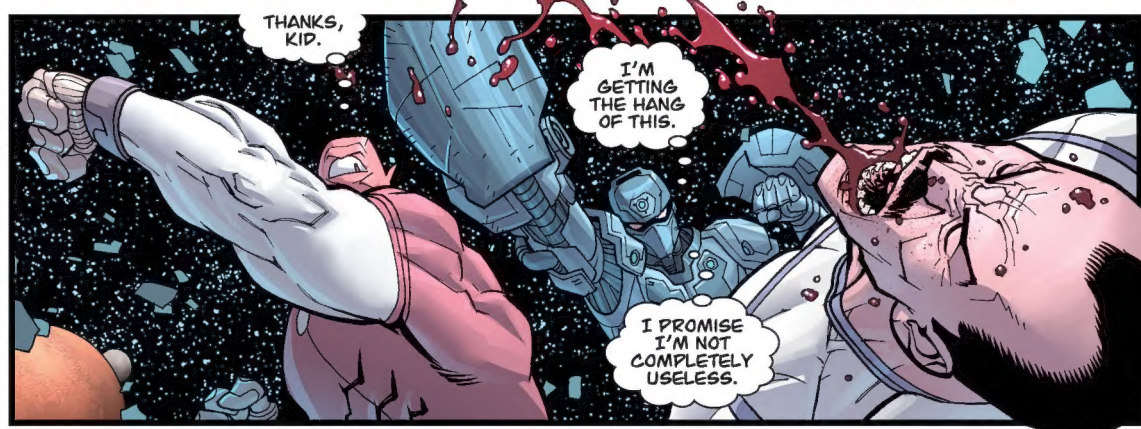
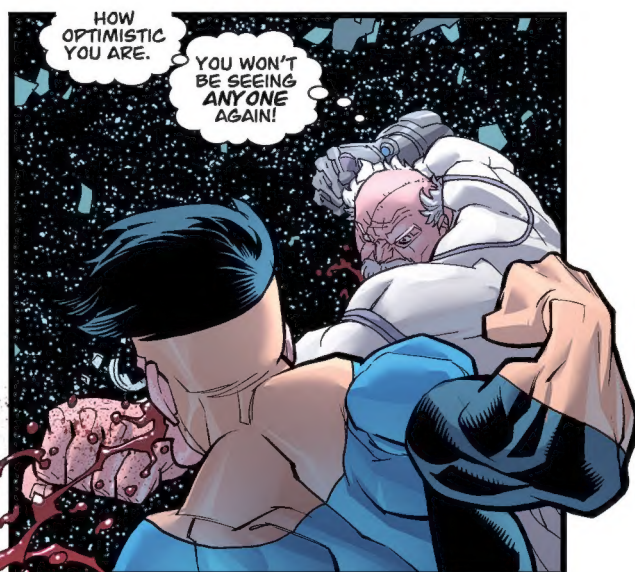


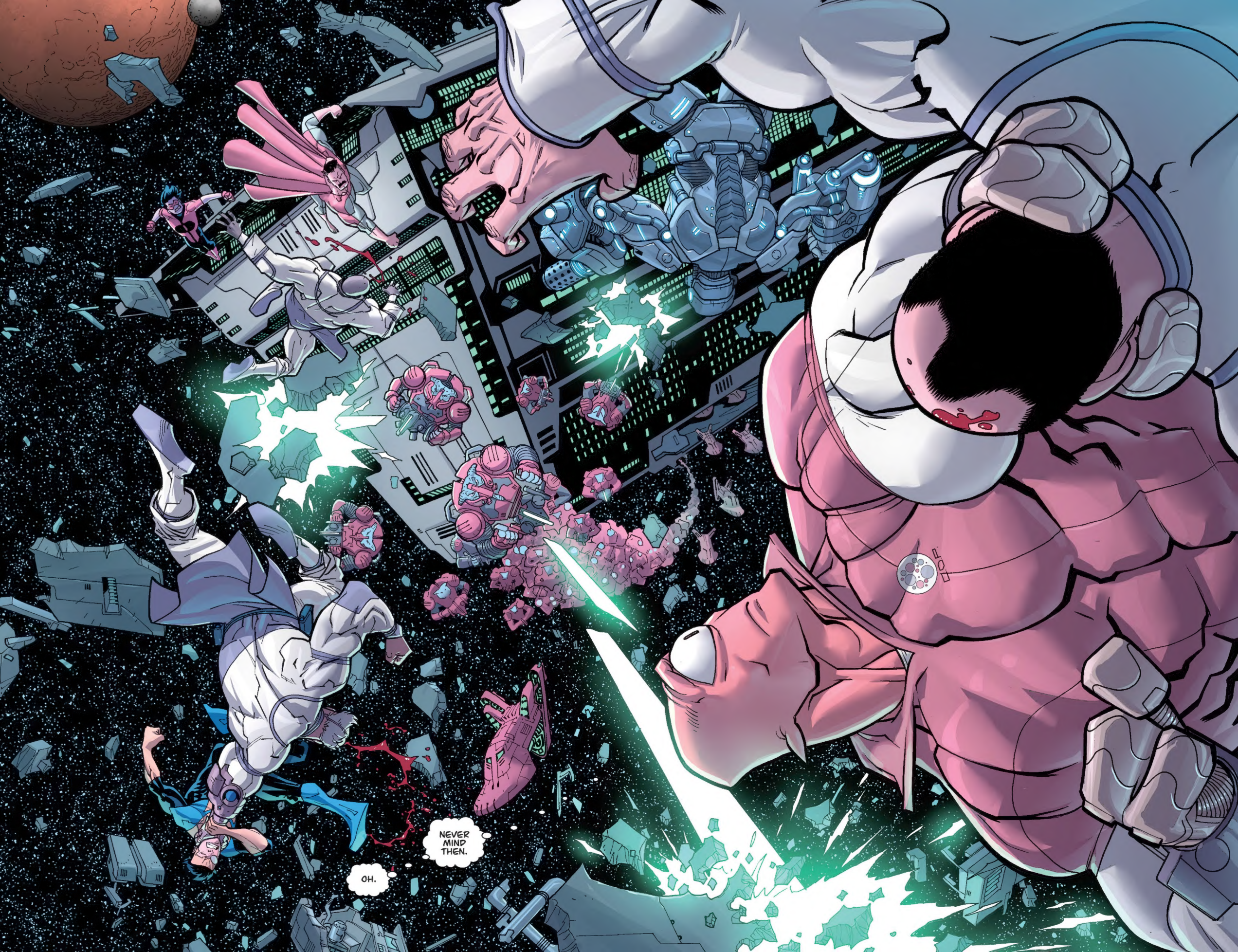
HANDS
OFF MY
SON!

FINALLY--
I'VE BEEN
WAITING TO GET
MY HANDS ON
YOU SINCE
OUR LAST
ENCOUNTER!

YOU SHOULD
HAVE MADE
SURE I WAS
DEAD!

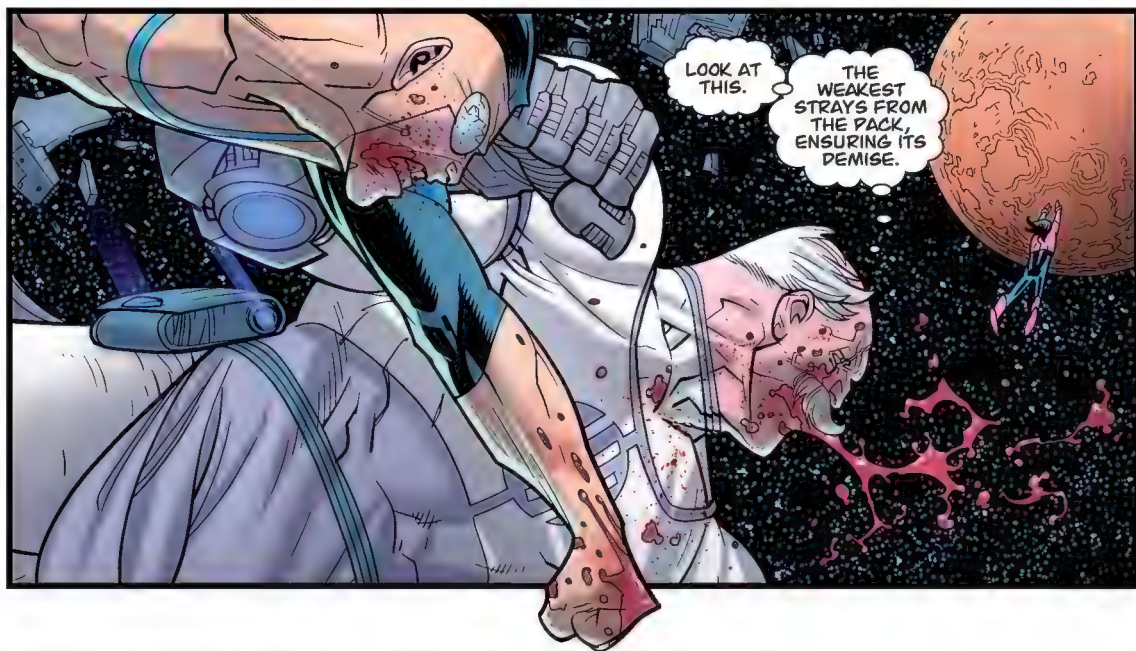
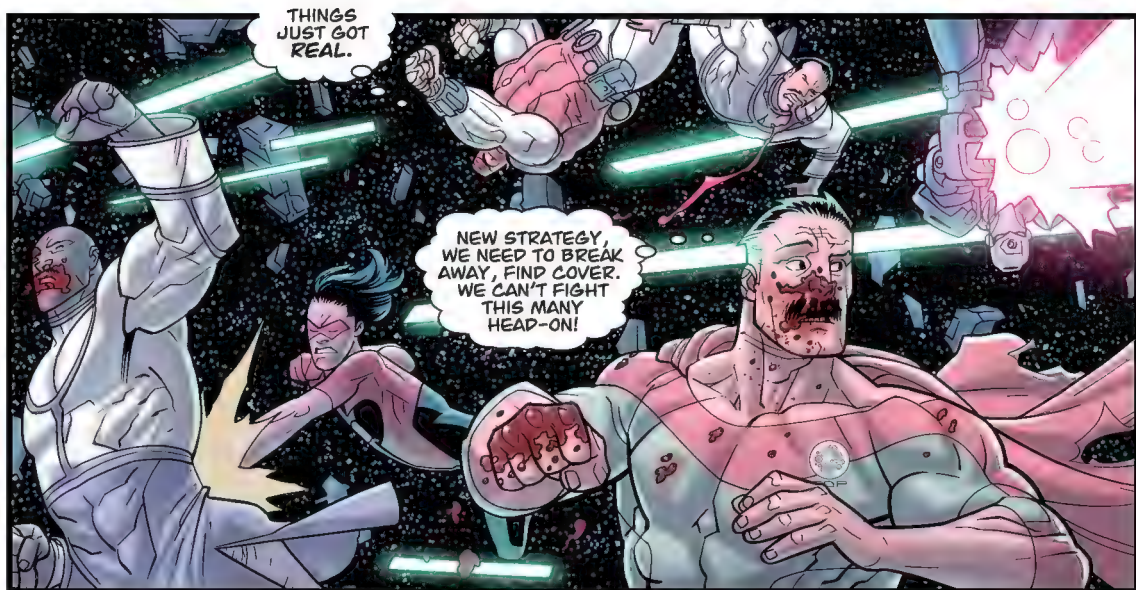
A MISTAKE
I WON'T
REPEAT.

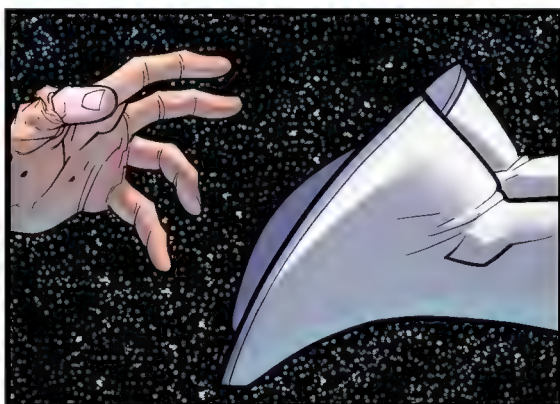
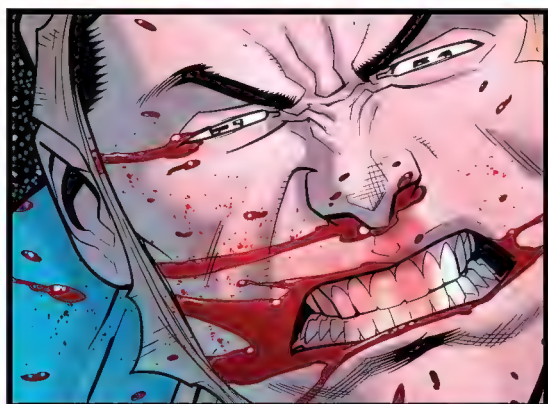
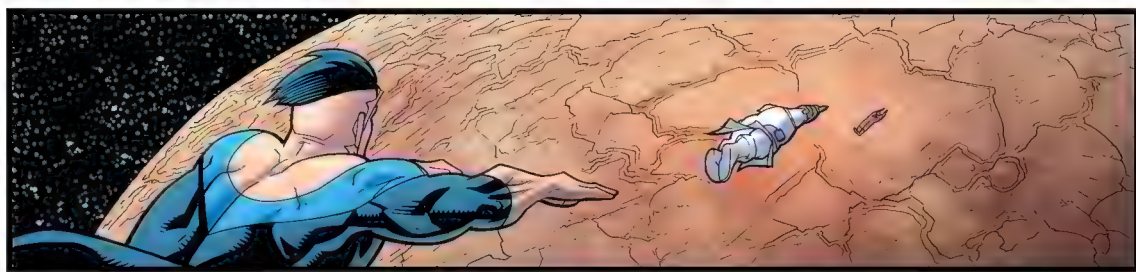
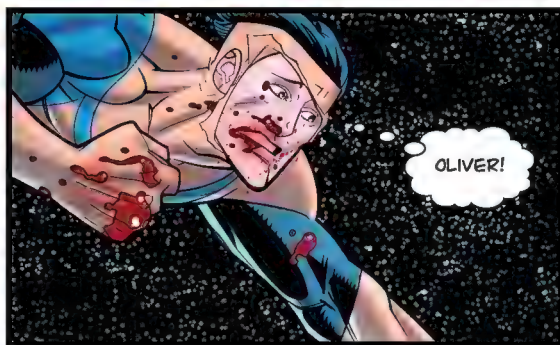
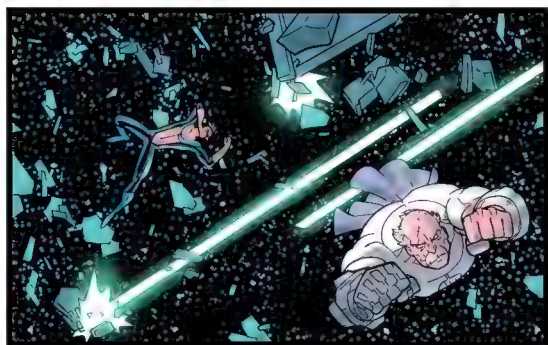


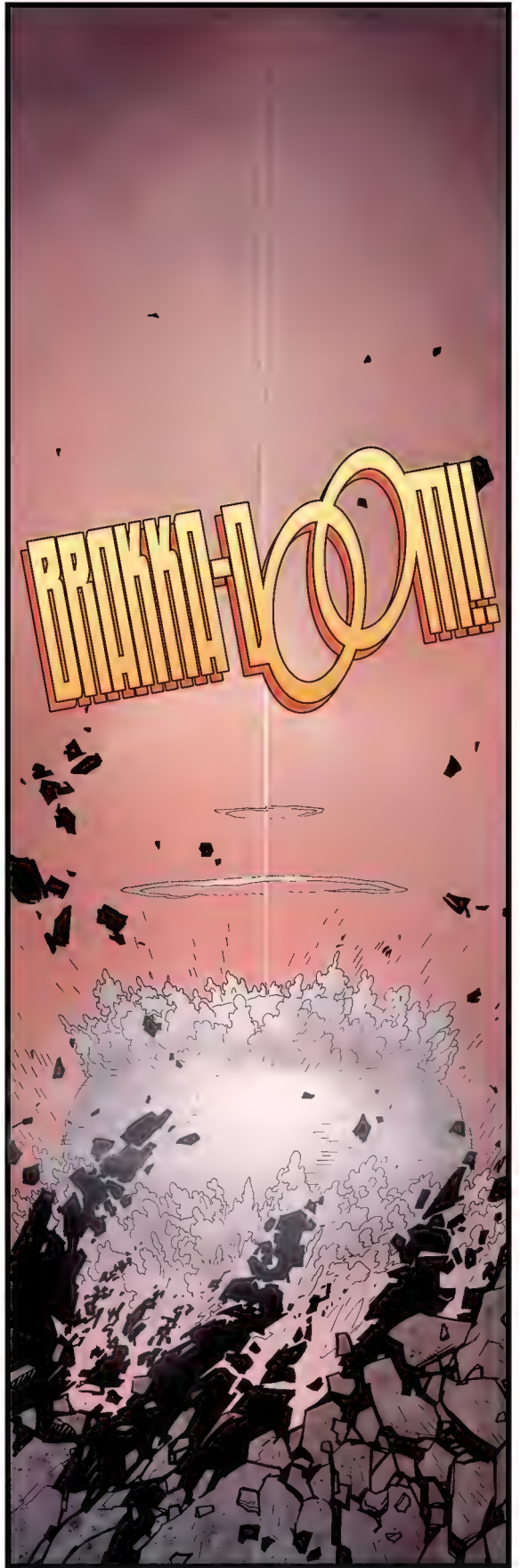


NEVER
MIND
THEN.

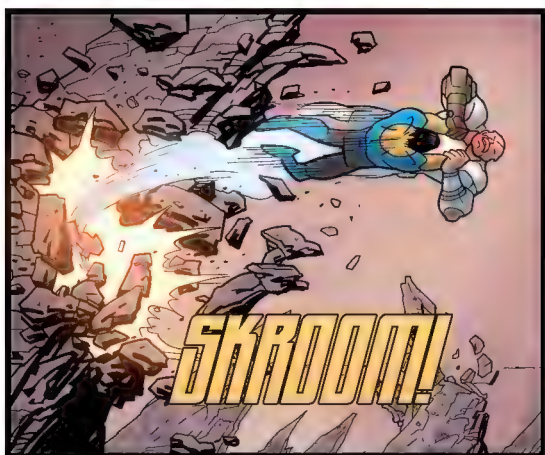
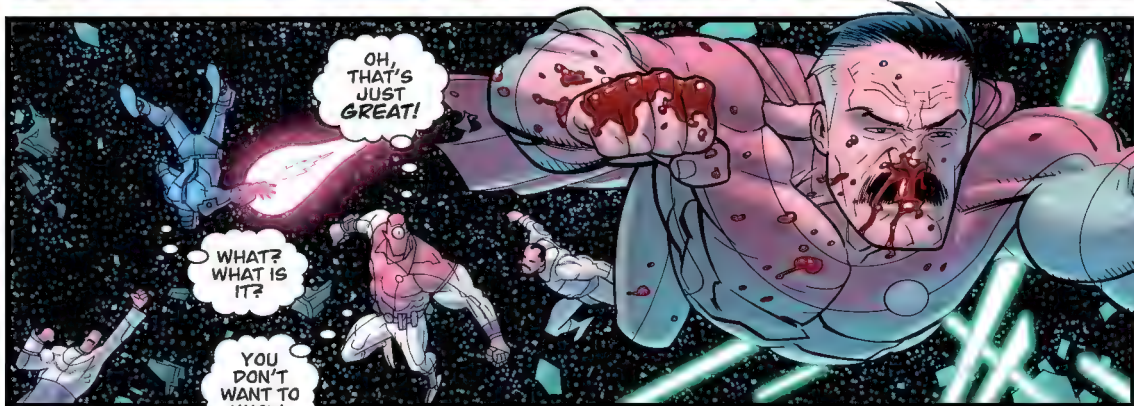
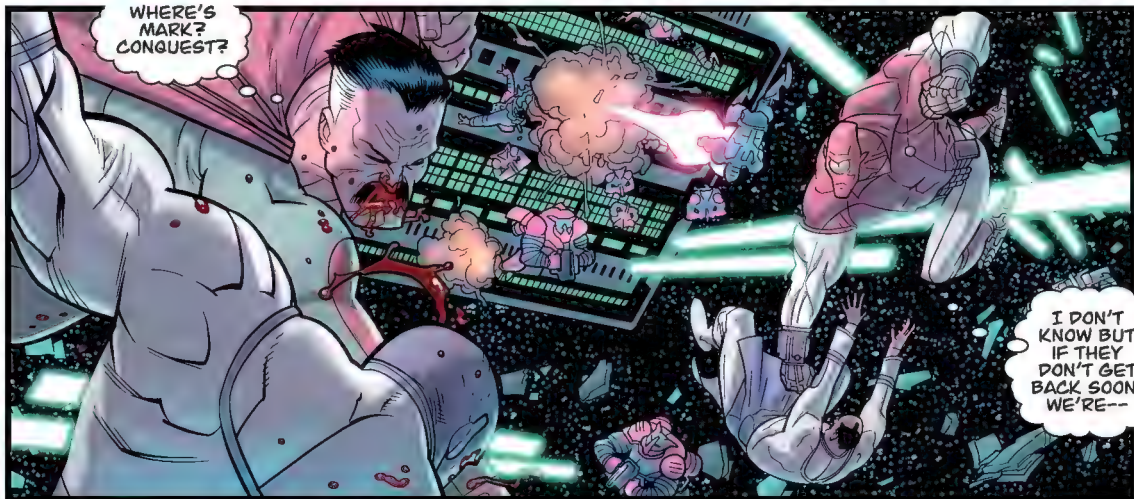
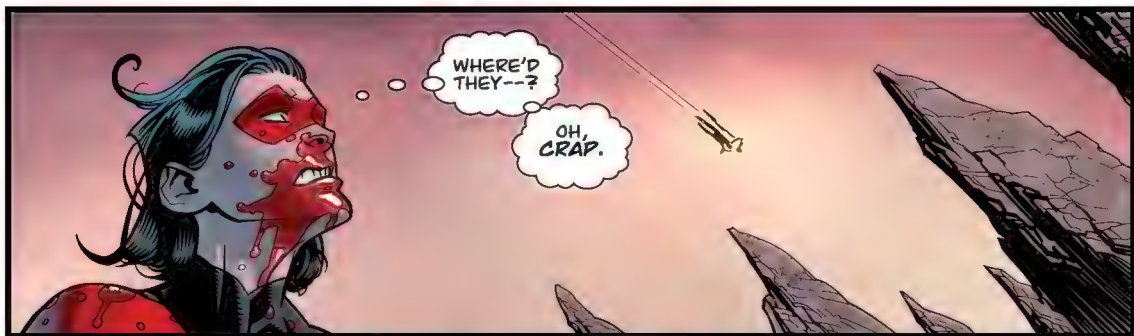
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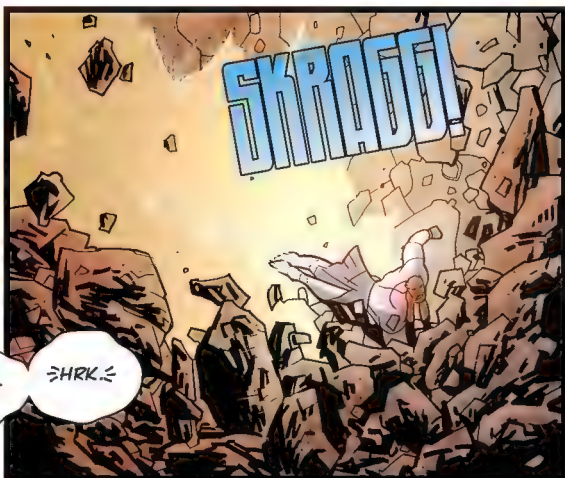


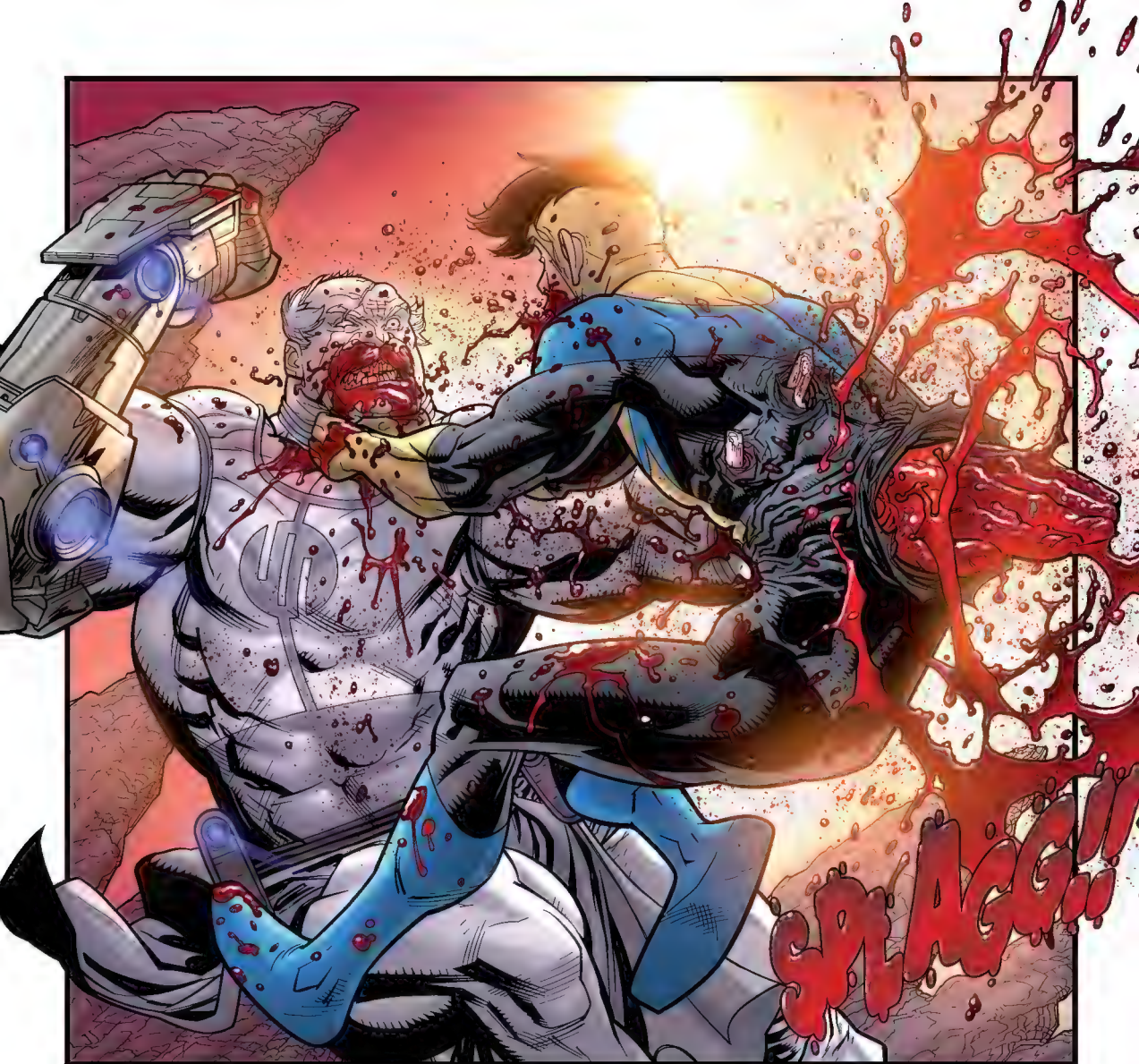


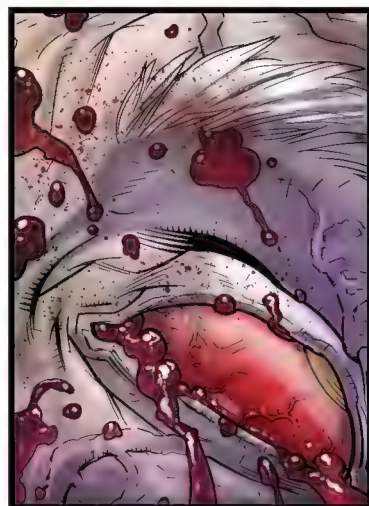
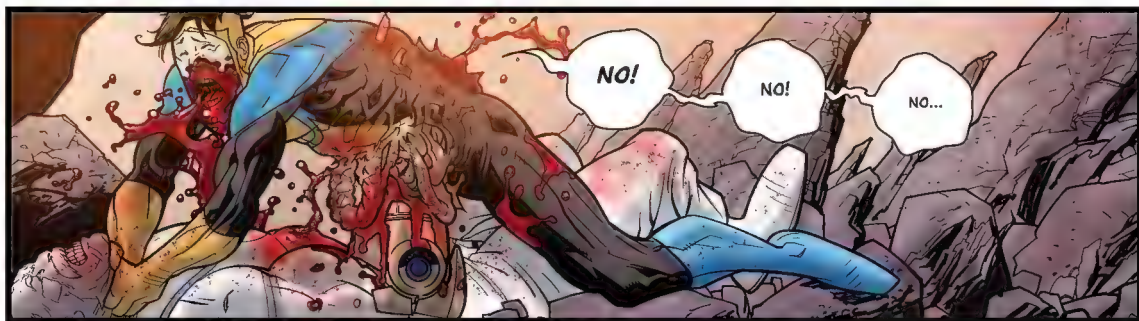
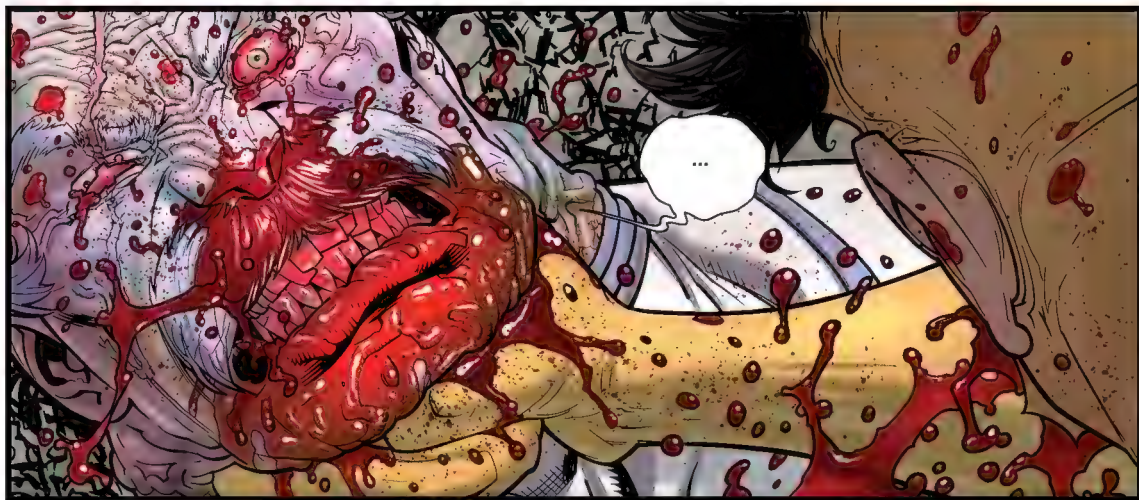
















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PEN VINCIPALS

Hey Penvincipals,

This is Sina Grace, Robert's new editor, taking over the letters column while the main man gets caught up on your favorite books. He's still reading all of your letters, and will be providing answers to all of your hard-hitting questions. All I'm doing is putting it on a word processing document for him.

(Don't forget the foot rubs! -Robert)

I'll let you in on a little secret: Invincible is my favorite Kirkbook. This comic captures the fun of an ongoing superhero adventure, and the drama of growing up with responsibility far larger than the shoulders you've got. Coming onto this series as editor right around Invincible Returns feels all too amazing.

Now, about this issue: Holy. Moly.

Conquest is that kind of bad guy who brings out the best in our heroes. He knows how to get under your skin, find your entrails, and pull 'em out as if they were baubles. It's a little unnerving to know that there's still more bloody Viltrumite War to come.

(Yeah, this is just chapter TWO of an eight-part story! Hold onto your hats, kids! -Robert)

But I digress. Let's see what you thought of the magnificent Invincible Returns one-shot!

Finished reading Invincible Returns and love seeing Mark back in the blue and yellow costume. The black and blue costume was ok, but THIS is the look I think of when I hear Invincible.

I'm with you, brother (fist up).

I really liked how this issue reflected on the history of the Mark.... You guys developed his character over 70+ issues so gradually that this issue actually made me think he had gone a bit dark side. I never felt that reading the actual issues on a month to month basis as the circumstances where he cut loose on Angstrom, Conquest and Rus were him with his back against the wall. Seeing these events in a condensed issue kind of changes the perspective a bit, but I still like Mark either way he did what he had to do. I just hope the events of this issue don't pissify him too much.

Oh em gee. "Pussify," Kirkman. I found a new word.

Was going to pull "Pussify," seems like it could be a little offensive, but then I thought back to what actually happens in this issue and I let it go.

Also, please give Nolan some shoes, boots, or something to wear on his feet. Sure he's invulnerable, but I hope to see this guy kicking some serious ass in the upcoming issues and seeing him flying around barefoot doing it just looks weird. Or is there a foot fetishist on the creative team? Haha

I don't know if you would call my admiration for a set of taut, clean, kissable men's bare feet a fetish...

Hah! Here's the thing, Nolan, I thought, looked really cool when he had no shoes on in the prison. I thought it was a cool look. So when Cory came on to do issues 66 and 67 and we were going to

give Nolan a new uniform, I thought it'd be cool to keep the barefoot look. If you think about why we wear shoes (to protect our feet) then you can see that Nolan doesn't need shoes, his feet are stronger and more durable than any shoe. So don't worry, he'll be kicking all kinds of ass--and he'll be doing it with FEET! Seriously guys, no shoes is where it's at!

Bring on the Viltrumite War!

Jason Aiken

Oh, it's already been broughten!

YE GODS!

Freddie Mercury is the Viltrumite King? I did not see that coming. And how powerful must he be if Conquest is frightened of him? Yikes. And Cecil, what a sneaky bar steward he is; I hope someone blows open all his lies and duplicity.

He just wants somebody to love.

Invincible Returns was a good solid issue, and it was good to see Vince turn his back on that darker period of his life. Nice homage to Amazing Spider-Man #300 too, although I can't tell if that was deliberate.

Everything Kirkman does is a huge homage to Spider-Man. His kid--Peter Parker Kirkman--thinks that he can climb walls. It's amusing to watch, really.

The back-up was a little choppy. I can understand its purpose in bringing new readers up to speed, but the info dumping was just a little laboured, I thought. Still, good to see Cory Walker back on art.

I don't disagree, on BOTH counts. Cory is awesome, and that back-up could have probably stood to be a little smoother and less stilted. It's a fine line between info dumping and bad dialogue, I think I crossed it in a few places to be perfectly honest... but y'know what... you win some, you lose some.

Sorry to end on a downer there. There's still lots of great stuff happening in the comic, and I can't wait to see how this next phase turns out!

- Kelvin Green

I own two pages of the Cory sequence! He may think I bought the talking head pages because I can't afford his awesome splashes (which is true), but really, that man is a wonderful storyteller. Walker, are you reading this? If'n you are, will you give me a deal on the next batch of pages I buy?

Hey team,

Long time listener, first time caller!

Well, more like: long time observer, first time reader. I've seen so many great things said about Kirkman's writing and his books that I FINALLY sat down and read Invincible #1 on the imagecomics.com free preview site last night.

For all you readers out there: Comixology offers a free download of all Kirkman #1s! Get an iPad and download, ASAP!

(AND it's free on the Image Comics website, and over at Newsarama.com too, I think. Tell your friends. And holy heck do these comics look good on an iPad. Issues 1-60 are already available.)

By page 7, when Mark launches the garbage bag into orbit, you had me forever. Honestly. My brain exploded and my heart skipped beats. My face matched Mark's reaction panel: wonder & complete excitement and all the things that have kept me a monthly reader since I was 12. A moment of true connection when the little kid inside still feels elated and unstoppable and invincible.

Cory Walker can draw you doing that. Ten dollah.

I know I've got a lot of reading to catch up on but thank you in advance because it's been a while since I was this excited for the adventure.

Keep having fun and keep up the great work,
Greg

I'm glad you like the book, Greg. You gotta catch up ASAP so your face can explode when you see that your letter got printed!

Kirkman, I just picked up Invincible Returns and I really loved it. I guess the Cory Walker back-up which served as a recap was engineered to make it easy for new reader to jump on board. While that's fine and dandy for newcomers, I personally thought it was awesome to see what all those meetings with the Viltrumites would have looked like had Cory never left the book. Don't get me wrong though, I love Ottley's art and he just seems to get better with every issue.

Ryan and Cory are pretty spectacular. If you love Ryan's art, just wait until you see the stuff Robert has him drawing over the next few issues!

I originally picked up Invincible because I enjoyed the short back-up feature that ran in the pages of Savage Dragon years ago. To this day Savage Dragon and Invincible remain my two favorite books on the market. I love that the characters in your books are so well-fleshed out with emotional conflict and varying degrees of moral uncertainty. It reminds me of Greek mythology where the gods and heroes are simultaneously capable of great deeds and horrible retribution. Compared to writing like this, the good guy/bad guy dynamics found in those other comic companies seems so juvenile.

Keep up the excellent work and I'll keep buying.

Abbot Henderson

Robert's probably super stoked that you said his book was as good as Savage Dragon. That man has an inappropriate love for Erik Larsen.

Shhhh.

The Men of Invincible (and Aubrey too),

As far as I know, Aubrey is a man--the kind of man who can strangle a rhino with his bare hands. It must be the curse of the Kirk-Editor to have ambiguous names (for the record, I too am a man, although Robert still isn't convinced).

Wait--WHAT?!

RE: Invincible Returns

Great freakin' issue!

So... Freddie Mercury really didn't die? He just left Earth and became the leader of the Viltrumites?

I'm ready for War! Let's get it on!

Matt Gullifer

Hah. Robert, make some stupid Queen reference, please.

I want to ride my bicycle.

I'm a big fan of Invincible. I've been picking up the Invincible Ultimate Collections which feel and look great. But I recently picked up Invincible Returns #1 and I dislike the paper stock that it was printed on so much that I felt the need to write in. Please switch to something less rigid which doesn't feel like it will come to pieces if not handled gingerly. It's too glossy too. I won't be picking up any more issues if they continue to be printed on the same stock. I will however keep picking up the Ultimate Collections no matter what though because they are too awesome. Keep up the great work.

Alfred P McLovely III

P.S. I love the Walking Dead book collections the most. I love the fact that they don't have slipcovers. They're my favorite hardcover collections. Love 'em!

Robert, should we even deign to answer this?

I hate slipcovers, too! I really do. I'm just a stickler for consistency. I don't want to suddenly have volume 6 of the Invincible Ultimate Collections have no dust jacket. They do look nice, though--you have to admit that. On the paper stock used on RETURNS, I don't think it's any different than the issues before that, but I will say that issue 71 was printed at a new printer--so I hope you like that one. Seriously, though... don't stop buying because of paper-stock! Sheesh!

That's about all the time we have for letters this issue.

Check back in with us in 30 to see what Oliver and Nolan do with all of Mark's exposed guts.

Spaghetti!!

-Sina Grace

(-Robert Kirkman)

TECH JACKET

CHAPTER 2 of 8

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COLORS BY: RON RILEY

LETTERING BY: RUS WOOTON